

[English]

### Seed Development Scheme

2496. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to Introduce a seeds development scheme to take care of problems of the farmers in drought-prone areas in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING ) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, during 1994-95, an amount of Rs. 13.02 crores was released to the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh as well as National Seeds Corporation, State Farms Corporation of India and Sone Command Area Development Agency, Patna for creation of revolving fund under Central Sector Scheme for Drought Prone Areas.

### Import of Fertilizers

2497. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had imported fertilizers in the recent past;

(b) whether Government intend to import fertilizers in future as well;

(c) whether imported fertilizers are cheaper than the indigenously produced fertilizers;

(d) if not, whether any subsidy is being given to the farmers on buying the imported fertilizers; and

(e) if so, the quantum of subsidy being given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under the price, distribution and movement control. Imports of urea are made every year by the Government to bridge the gap between the assessed demand and indigenous availability. During 1996-97 (upto Feb'97), 23.28 lakh metric tonnes (LMTs) of urea has been imported on Government account. The imports of other major decontrolled fertilizers viz. DAP and MOP have been decanalised w.e.f. 17.9.1992 and 17.6.1993 respectively.

(c) to (e) The weighted average retention price of indigenously produced urea is Rs. 5434.00 per metric tonne. The weighted average C&F cost of production of urea during 1996-97 (upto Feb'97) is provisionally estimated as Rs. 7308.00 per metric tonne. The subsidy incurred on imported urea during 1996-97 is Rs. 4980.00 per metric tonne (Provisional).

Ad-hoc concession given by Government of India (Ministry of Agriculture) on both imported DAP and MOP w.e.f. 6.7.1996 has been Rs. 1500.00 per metric tonne.

### Women Representative in the Wakf Board

2498. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is now women representative in the Wakf Boards in various States under the Act, 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken in the matter for women's representation in the Wakf Boards?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO WALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that there is no woman member in the Wakf Boards set up/ functioning in various States under the Wakf Act, 1995.

(b) and (c) The Wakf Act, 1995 provides for establishment of a Wakf Board in each State by the State Government. The composition of the Board, as provided in the Act, is that one and not more than two members of the Boards are to be elected from each of the following electoral college consisting of :

(i) Muslim Members of Parliament from the State.

(ii) Muslim Members of the State Legislature.

(iii) Muslim Members of the Bar Council of the State, and

(iv) Mutawallis of the Wakfs having an annual income of Rs. 1 lakh and above.

The Act further provides for nomination of one and not more than two members by the State Government from following two categories :-

(i) Representative of eminent Muslim organisations.

(ii) Recognised scholars in Islamic Theology, and also an officer of the State Government not below the rank of Deputy Secretary, is to be nominated as member of the Board.

There is no bar, as such, in the Act on election and/or nomination of a lady member in a Wakf Board.

### Protection of Bugyals (Alpine Pastures)

2499. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have studied the recent Allahabad High Court judgement on the protection of

Bugyals (Alpine pastures) in the Himalayas and the preservation of Gangotri-Gomukh-Tapovan route; and

(b) if so, the steps and follow-up action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### National Commission for SCs/STs

2500. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for SCs/STs has suggested a series of steps including an increase in the reservation for SCs and STs in proportion to increase in their population; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) The National Commission for SCs/STs set up under Article 338 of the Constitution consequent to the 65th Constitutional Amendment Act (1990), has so far submitted 2 reports. The reports have several recommendations relating to education, economic development besides service safeguards to SCs/STs. The first report has been circulated to all State Governments/UT Administrations besides Central Ministries/Departments. The second report is in the process of circulation. After obtaining comments from the Central Ministries/Departments and the State Governments/UT Administration the reports of the National Commission for SCs/STs along with the Action Taken Report (ATR) will be tabled in the Parliament.

#### Free Sale of Wheat

2501. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) turned down various suggestions made by the Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding the release of free sale wheat for the month of December, 1996;

(b) if so, the suggestions made by the State Government; and

(c) the reasons for turning down these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) FCI has not turned down any suggestion made by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. FCI allocated

wheat for Open Sale to the Government of Uttar Pradesh depending upon the total movement of wheat planned for the month of December, 1996 for Uttar Pradesh. Wheat is sold under Open Market Sale Scheme only if the stocks are available over and above the requirements under PDS/RPDS/other welfare schemes sponsored by the Government.

[Translation]

#### Devchanda Agriculture Farm.

2502. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to revive Devchanda Agriculture Farm run by Damodar Valley Corporation in Hazaribagh district of Bihar;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be started;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to provide alternate employment to thousands of persons rendered unemployed as a result of closure of the Farm; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. It may be mentioned that Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), one of the first multipurpose integrated river valley projects, has closed Devchanda Agriculture Farm and handed it over to Forest Department, Government of Bihar in 1994. Employees working on the above-mentioned Farm have been rehabilitated in other formations of DVC.

[English]

#### Fencing of Border

2503. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :  
SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :  
SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of erection of barbed wire fencing along the international border, State-wise;

(b) whether any change in the original plan of fencing the border has been made; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?